

# THE MILITANT

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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE VOL. 73/NO. 10 MARCH 16, 2009

## Ukraine gov’t verges on collapse amid crisis

BY CINDY JAQUITH

The impact of the worldwide contraction in capitalist production continued to sweep across Eastern Europe with the economy in Ukraine on the verge of collapse as the month of March opened. Industrial output declined 34 percent in January, steel production plunged by 46 percent, and the country’s currency, the hryvnia, declined by more than 40 percent against the U.S. dollar. If the government steps down, it will be the third in Europe in three months. The government in Iceland resigned January 26 and the Latvian government collapsed February 20.

Truckers parked 200 tractor-trailers outside Kiev, the capital, for several weeks, threatening to block the roads if the government failed to address their high debts, which they attribute to the fall of the hryvnia. They withdrew the vehicles February 27 after the government said it would take up their demands.

Twenty-six-year-old trucker Viktor Zarichnyuk told the *New York Times*, “The government is to blame for all of this.” He said, “We want the govern-  
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## Strikes in Guadeloupe, Martinique win gains

BY JEAN-LOUIS SALFATI

PARIS, March 4—Six weeks after a general strike began on the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe, an agreement was reached between the LKP (Alliance Against Exploitation), representatives of the French government, and a few bosses’ organizations.

“We expect to sign an agreement with some 170 points later this evening,” Nathalie Minatchy, an LKP spokesperson, said in a phone interview today. The LKP is a coalition of 48 unions, political groups, and community organizations that is leading the strike.

“After the accord is signed, we will tell people to go back to work, but to remain vigilant,” Minatchy said.

A similar agreement has been announced in Martinique. “The people of Martinique have their own leadership, the February 5 Alliance,” Minatchy said. “They won a wage increase and a rolling back of prices for basic food items.”

Guadeloupe and Martinique are French colonies that Paris describes as “overseas departments.”

The economy and government of  
 Continued on page 3

## Arizona action fights cop immigration raids

Demands end to sheriff’s vigilante gangs



Militant/Betsey Stone

Protest February 28 of several thousand in Phoenix, Arizona, for immigrant rights and against targeting of immigrant workers by Maricopa County cops.

BY BETSEY STONE

PHOENIX—Thousands of demonstrators marched through downtown Phoenix February 28 in a spirited protest demanding a halt to sweeping

are Human!” and “Arpaio: terrorista” and chanted “Si, se puede” (Yes, we can); “Arpaio escucha, estamos en la lucha” (Listen Arpaio, we’re in the struggle); and “No more Joe!” Joe Arpaio is the county sheriff.

Starting with more than 1,000 at the gathering point, the ranks of the march swelled as people joined in along the four-mile route and crowded the plaza for a rally at the Federal Building.

Sheriff Arpaio drew nationwide attention on February 4 when he forced more than 200 Latino prisoners to march through the streets of Phoenix before TV news cameras, in shackles  
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## ‘Attack on immigrants threat to all workers’

—Statement by Eleanor García, SWP congressional candidate, p. 4

anti-immigrant raids that have been organized here and in surrounding areas by the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office.

Marchers waved signs reading “We

## United pro-Cuba rally answers counterrevolutionary picket



Roberto Mercado

Demonstration March 1 of more than 70 people in support of Cuban Revolution outside Cuban mission to the United Nations in Manhattan.

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK—Carrying signs and banners demanding Washington end its decades-long embargo against Cuba, more than 70 people demonstrated across the street from Cuba’s Permanent Mission to the United Nations March 1.

The demonstration, built on short notice, was a lively show of support

called to counter a picket in the same area demanding an end to the “Castro regime.” Some 75 opponents of the Cuban Revolution, mainly Cuban Americans, joined that action.

The action by defenders of the Cuban Revolution demanded an end to the ban on U.S. citizens traveling to Cuba  
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## Havana book panel discusses transformation of Africa, world

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN AND OMARI MUSA

HAVANA—“The image commonly painted of Africa is one of hunger and corruption, disease, and dictatorships. That makes the publication of this book so welcome,” said Teresa Efua Asangono, Equatorial Guinea’s ambassador to Cuba. She was speaking at a February 26 meeting at the University of Havana to present *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa: Reports from Equatorial Guinea*. The book, by Mary-Alice Waters and Martín Koppel, was recently published by Pathfinder Press in both English and Spanish.

The meeting, held at the student center and organized by the Federation of University Students, was hosted by María del Carmen Maseda, director of the Amílcar Cabral African Stud-

ies program at the university. Among the 40 people present were two dozen Equatorial Guinean students. Some 150 youth from that Central African coun-  
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# L.A. settlement reached for May Day '07 cop riot

BY NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—The Los Angeles city council has approved a settlement in a suit filed by nearly 300 people who were brutalized by the city’s police in an assault on a May Day rally in 2007. The \$12.85 million settlement must still be approved by a federal judge.

On May 1, 2007, some 30,000 workers marched through downtown Los Angeles demanding legalization of undocumented immigrants. At least 5,000 more rallied that evening in MacArthur Park. In all, half a million people took part in actions across the country that day.

Around 6:30 p.m. the police shut down the peaceful rally taking place in the park, supposedly in response to a few people who “threw objects at police.” They moved into the crowd firing rubber bullets and clubbing demonstrators indiscriminately. At least 246 people reported injuries from the police riot.

News reporters were also targets. A Fox camerawoman suffered a fractured wrist. A KCBS cameraman was struck in the ribs, and an anchor for Telemundo was beaten and had a riot gun pointed in his face. The journalists have separate cases pending in state court, and are not covered by the settlement.

In October 2007 the Los Angeles Police Department produced a lengthy report citing inadequate planning, training, and command structure as the source of the incident. Last September, 16 months after the cop riot, police chief William Bratton announced plans to suspend 11 cops and called for firing 4 others for excessive force and other abuses.

In addition to the monetary payment, the February 4 settlement approved by the city council placed a few restrictions on when police are approved to use force against a demonstration. For example, police can use batons to push, but not strike, protesters who refuse to disperse; rubber bullets and beanbags cannot be fired on a peaceful crowd that is retreating; and police helicopters must not disrupt speeches by flying too low.

The tentative agreement sparked discussion among workers in Los Angeles. “It’s the correct thing for people to get the money,” said Roberto Gutiérrez, a young meat packer. The police “should pay every time they do this.”

The \$12.8 million “isn’t that much, after the doctors and lawyers fees,” commented Emilio, a worker at the American Apparel garment factory who asked that his last name not be used.

“It’s a victory that the city was forced to admit they violated workers rights with the cop riot on May Day,” said James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor. “But what’s needed is to prosecute and jail the cops for these crimes. My opponent, Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, brags that he has added



Above: May 17, 2007, demonstration of 5,000 in MacArthur Park in Los Angeles to protest police riot and attack on May 1 immigrant rights demonstration (inset). Sign says “You beat us, you united us.”

694 more cops to the force during his term in office, and pledges to increase that.”

Police chief William Bratton appears in a campaign ad for Villaraigosa praising him for “reducing crime.”

In contrast, supporters of the Socialist Workers campaign joined a vigil February 21 to protest the police kill-

ing of Salvador Zepeda in East Los Angeles. The 18-year-old youth was gunned down by county sheriff’s deputies November 30 a few doors from his home. Police in the Los Angeles area have killed dozens of people in the last year. Most recently, cops in the suburb of Pasadena killed 38-year-old Leroy Barnes on February 19.

## Maryland rally demands rights for immigrants

BY SUSAN LAMONT

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland—Nearly 300 workers, students, and activists held a spirited evening rally at the State Capitol here February 23 to press demands to defend the rights of immigrants. Busloads of workers, mainly immigrants from various countries in Latin Amer-

ica, came from around the state. Among them were day laborers and construction workers deeply affected by the sharp decline in housing and other construction jobs. Casa de Maryland, the main immigrants rights organization in the area, organized the rally.

“People have tried to use ‘divide and conquer’ against us, but this fight is for all of us, just like Rosa Parks’ refusal to give up her seat on the bus was a fight for all of us,” Guy Djoken, president of the Frederick, Maryland, chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), told the crowd. “And if we stay together, we will win.” Djoken is originally from the West African country of Cameroon.

Many participants held signs that read, “Drivers’ licenses for safety.” This refers to the bill now before the Maryland General Assembly that would require applicants for state drivers’ licenses to prove

they are legal U.S. residents. Maryland is one of four states that doesn’t require such proof, mandated under the federal Real ID law passed by the U.S. Congress in 2005 as a step toward a national identity card.

“We’re working with Casa to fight for in-state tuition,” explained Mabila Reyes, 23, a University of Maryland student who attended the rally with several others from her campus. Students who cannot prove permanent immigration status in Maryland are charged out-of-state tuition, even if they graduated from high school in the state.

Speakers at the rally also opposed other legislation targeting immigrant workers, including proposals to deny public benefits to all non-citizens, prohibit local communities from passing sanctuary protections, and require businesses to use the national E-Verify database to prove “eligibility” to work.

## THE MILITANT

### Support Guadeloupe, Martinique strikes

*In Guadeloupe working people went on strike January 20. The strike then spread to Martinique. The ‘Militant’ reports on resistance by workers and farmers to the deepening worldwide economic crisis of capitalism. Don’t miss a single issue!*



Militant/Jean-louis Salfati

Paris march February 21 in support of general strike in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

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# N.Y. meeting discusses legacy of Malcolm X

BY OLGA RODRÍGUEZ

NEW YORK—The revolutionary legacy of Malcolm X was celebrated at a forum here on the 44th anniversary of his assassination. The event was held at the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center. The meeting was cosponsored by the Coalition on Political Assassinations (COPA) and by the center, which is located at the site of the Audubon Ballroom in Harlem where Malcolm X was fatally shot at the podium on Feb. 21, 1965.

Malaak Shabazz, Malcolm's and Betty Shabazz's youngest daughter, welcomed some 120 participants and thanked the speakers. The meeting was chaired by Dowoti Désir, the center's executive director.

The first panelist was William Pepper, author of two books on what he believes to have been a U.S. government conspiracy in 1968 to assassinate Martin Luther King. The government did so, Pepper said, because King in his later years had "started down the same path as Malcolm X."

Pepper, who served as an attorney to James Earl Ray—the man convicted of King's assassination—said he was also convinced that President John F. Kennedy had been assassinated in 1963 by conspirators at the service of "the Eastern Establishment" in the United States.

Wynne Alexander, station historian for Philadelphia's WDAS radio, spoke about Malcolm X's interview by the station on Dec. 29, 1964. Despite a death threat, and the station being surrounded by 100 local cops, including sharpshooters, Malcolm went on the air to explain his perspective for building the Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU).

James Small, an OAAU leader and retired Black Studies professor at the City University of New York, spoke to the challenges facing African Americans since Malcolm's death. "Would Malcolm be happy with the situation of African Americans if he were alive today?" Small asked, answering "No." Since 1965, he said, 10,000 Blacks "have been elected to public office whose presence has meant no difference for the African-American community." He pointed to high jobless rates and the devastating impact of today's capitalist crisis.

Small spoke about the U.S., French, and British governments' hatred of Malcolm. Malcolm knew he would be killed, Small said, and that the plot was "bigger than the Nation of Islam."

Also speaking was Steve Clark, editor of several collections of speeches by Malcolm X published by Pathfinder Press and a member of the Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Clark encouraged those at the meeting to read and study Malcolm's speeches and interviews from the last 10 months of his life—kept in print primarily by Pathfinder Press—in order to emulate "the political legacy and course of conduct of one of the 20th century's most outstanding revolutionary leaders of working people and of the struggle for Black freedom."

During those 10 months, Clark said, Malcolm sought to unify the broadest possible movement against anti-Black racism and oppression, women's inequality, capitalist exploitation, and imperialist wars. Whatever one's religious

beliefs or lack of them, Malcolm said, it was necessary to leave religion at home in the closet in order to build a united movement.

Addressing the assassination, Clark pointed to the ways the U.S. rulers and their political police carry out spying and harassment, as well as murderous violence when they need to, against those actively engaged in fighting government policies.

The U.S. rulers wanted to get rid of Malcolm X, Clark said. But it was individuals in or around the Nation of Islam who shot him. Clark added that in Grenada a Stalinist clique within the governing New Jewel Movement murdered Maurice Bishop, the central leader of the 1979–83 revolution, and, as Cuban president Fidel Castro explained, "handed the island to U.S. imperialism on a silver platter."

"Malcolm X hated these methods," Clark said. Malcolm detested demagoguery and thuggery by those claiming to fight for liberation. These are methods of the exploiters, picked up and introduced by the Stalinist movement into organizations of working people and the oppressed in the 1930s.

Clark pointed to the disorienting result of focusing our attention on alleged plots and conspiracies. It takes our eyes off the real source of society's ills—the capitalist system—and the need to build a revolutionary movement of working people to take power from the capitalist rulers.

Conspiracy tales, Clark said, often lead to scapegoating, like the anti-Semitic libel floated around 9/11, repeated to this day, that Jews working at the Twin Towers were told to stay home that day. "It's all grist for the mill of the ultraright," Clark noted.

## Guadeloupe, Martinique strikes win gains

**Continued from front page**

Guadeloupe is dominated by a small layer of capitalists called *békés*, descendants of the white plantation slave owners of the colonial past.

The "Jacques Bino Accord," named after a union leader killed February 17, grants a wage increase of 200 euros per month (US\$250) to approximately 15,000 low-paid private-sector workers. Associations representing big businesses that employ 65,000 of the 85,000 employees in the private sector have re-



Militant/Maura DeLuca

From left to right: Dowoti Désir, executive director of Shabazz Center; John Judge, director of Coalition on Political Assassinations; Steve Clark, editor of books of Malcolm X speeches published by Pathfinder; James Small, former professor at City University of New York; Wynne Alexander, Philadelphia's WDAS radio; and attorney William Pepper. Not shown is Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid, a trustee of Shabazz Center.

Imam Talib Abdur-Rashid, a trustee of the Shabazz Center and Islamic religious leader in New York, said Malcolm X was "not just a great leader who was a Muslim, but a great Muslim leader." We should recall, Talib added, that Malcolm first established a religious organization, and only after that a political one.

The final speaker, COPA director John Judge, said it's important to study assassination conspiracies, because if we "don't know history, we can't know the present and future." People sometimes call him "a conspiracy theorist," he said, "which is OK if they call themselves 'coincidence theorists.'"

Judge said he knows "the power of the state," but within the state there are factions and "competing conspiracies." Powerful forces conspired to assassinate President Kennedy, his brother Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Malcolm X because of what they represented politically.

During the discussion, Clark said he

fused to sign the agreement so far.

A 200-euro pay increase was the central demand of the strikers. The agreement also included the freezing of rents in 2009 and the creation of a "housing commission" in charge of stopping evictions, Rosan Mounien, who was part of the LKP negotiation team, told the press. Mounien said the LKP considers the negotiation on wages to be over even if the French Confederation of Business Enterprises doesn't recognize the agreement. Elie Domota, a central leader of

the LKP, said the group would ask for the extension of the agreement to all companies in Guadeloupe.

Socialist Party leader Ségolène Royal, a former candidate for president of France, visited Guadeloupe for several days to urge a settlement. In a statement riddled with paternalism toward workers in Guadeloupe, she said, "When parents cannot feed their children anymore, it usually comes to a bad end. Let's remind ourselves of the French Revolution."

In Martinique the central demand of the workers was for a monthly 354-euro wage increase (US\$445).

In Fort-de-France, the main city on the island, clashes with gendarmes went on for two nights February 24–25. Cars and garbage were set on fire on Maurice Bishop Avenue. Earlier in the day, demonstrators clung to the metal gate of the building where negotiations between strike leaders, government officials, and bosses were taking place. They stopped the bosses' representatives from leaving the building, shouting at them "Negotiate, negotiate!"

"This is a historic event," LKP spokesperson Minatchy said, referring to the general strike. "Guadeloupe will never be like it was before. There are many more problems we need to discuss and then continue to mobilize."

*Seth Galinsky contributed to this article from New York.*

## —MILITANT LABOR FORUMS—

### CALIFORNIA

#### San Francisco

**Convict and Jail Cop Who Killed Oscar Grant!** Speakers: Jack Bryson, leader of fight for justice for Oscar Grant; Lea Sherman, SWP. Fri., March 13. Dinner 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 5482 Mission St., Tel.: (415) 584-2135.

### FLORIDA

#### Miami

**Legalization for All Immigrant Workers Now! Stop the Raids! Stop the Deportations!** Speakers: Representative, SWP campaign and others. Fri., March 13. Dinner 7 p.m.; program 8 p.m. 6777 NW 7th Ave., #5, Tel.: (305) 757-8869.

### MINNESOTA

#### Minneapolis

**The Fight for Women's Rights Today.** Fri., March 13. Dinner 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. 1311 1/2 E Lake St., 2nd floor, Tel.: (612) 729-1205.

### NEW JERSEY

#### Newark

**Film Showing of 'An African Odyssey.'** Fri., March 13. Dinner 7 p.m.; program 8 p.m. 168 Bloomfield Ave., 2nd floor, Tel.: (973) 481-0077.

### TEXAS

#### Houston

**Stop Attacks on Women's Right to Choose: New 'Ultrasound' Law a Violation of Privacy Rights.** Speaker: Amanda Ulman, SWP candidate for mayor of Houston. Fri., March 13. 7:30 p.m. 4800 W 34th St., Tel.: (713) 688-4919.

### WASHINGTON

#### Seattle

**International Working-Class Resistance to the Capitalist Crisis of Production and Jobs.** Speakers to be announced. Fri., March 13. Dinner 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$5 dinner, \$5 program. 5418 Rainier Ave. S, Tel.: (206) 323-1755.



‘Attack on immigrants is threat to all workers’

California socialist candidates join rally

Eleanor García, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in the 32nd District in California, joined with thousands of workers and youth February 28 in Phoenix demanding a halt to anti-immigrant raids. The socialist candidate and her supporters distributed the following statement.

As a garment worker and a socialist, I am proud to join in today’s march for dignity. Phoenix is one of the flash points in the fight for the legalization. I pledge that my campaign will support every protest against raids and deportations and for legalization.

In the last 13 months, the bosses have cut 3.6 million jobs in the U.S. For the bosses the crisis is a decline in their profits, but for working people, our crisis is unemployment, lack of health care, homelessness.

One of the consequences of the capitalist economic crisis is deepening competition among individual workers for jobs. Sheriff Arpaio is trying to scapegoat immigrant workers for the economic crisis. He says he can fix the state’s budget problems by denying undocumented workers in the city’s jail access to health care, shackling them, and marching them in a chain gang into a desert jail.

This is not only an outrageous attack on immigrant workers, but a threat against all working people. The fight for legalization is an integral part of improving the conditions for all workers. The bosses use

people’s immigration status to drive down wages for everybody.

The solution isn’t to kick people out. Instead of having a layer of workers intimidated, we need to be in a stronger position to organize unions and fight together.

My campaign is explaining that working people need to take political power out of the hands of the ruling class and establish a workers and farmers government. This is how we can defend ourselves from mounting layoffs, cuts in health care and education, and greater assaults on workers’ rights.

Workers need to fight to build the kind of unions we need—unions that do not subordinate labor’s interest to those of the bosses. Under capitalism there is no equality of sacrifice.

Thousands protest cop attacks on immigrants

Continued from front page

and prison stripes, from the jail to a tent prison set up to detain immigrants in the desert.

Outrage against this helped galvanize activists in a coalition of organizations, including Somos America, Tonatierra, Puente Arizona, and Arizona ACORN, to organize the February 28 march.

The National Day Laborer Organizing Network and other organizations helped build the action in other cities. As a result of these efforts, hundreds of protesters came from throughout the West.

Zack de la Rocha, lead singer for Rage Against the Machine, marched at the head of the demonstration and spoke at the rally. He and other speakers condemned Apaio’s “deputized vigilantes,” the so-called volunteers that have been deputized as federal immigration agents by Arpaio to terrorize immigrant communities. Many in the area refer to the deputies as Arpaio’s “posse.” They are armed and some wear ski masks to hide their identity while making arrests.

Many marchers expressed relief and satisfaction that, after witnessing these abuses over the course of several years, they were now able to be part of a large demonstration in opposition.

“It’s great to see all this unity,” said Vicky Cervantes, who makes her living cleaning houses. Recalling the mobilizations for legalization of immigrants in the spring of 2006, she said, “When people come together, we can push them back.”

Layal Rabat, a student at Arizona State University, came with two friends. She said she wanted to protest the mistreatment of prisoners in the jails, pointing to the case of a woman who



Gerardo Sánchez (front left), Socialist Workers Party candidate for city treasurer in San Francisco, and Eleanor García (front right), SWP candidate for U.S. Congress in California’s 32nd District, take part in march for immigrant rights in Phoenix February 28.

Workers need to put our interests as a class first.

If elected, I will fight for legislation to shorten the workweek with no cut in pay to spread the available

work around, and for a federal program to provide jobs, through a massive public works program at union-scale wages to build schools, hospitals, and affordable housing.

gave birth to a stillborn baby after being refused the necessary emergency care. Arpaio, who has been sheriff since 1992, faces numerous lawsuits stemming from abusive treatment of prisoners.

Juan Vallejo, a young construction worker, marched with his two high school age cousins in T-shirts saying “Stop Arpaio.” “We are here to help our people,” Vallejo said. “We are losing jobs and losing houses.”

Chants of “No more Joe” grew louder as the march passed the Wells Fargo Tower where Arpaio has his headquarters and where some 150 counterdemonstrators gathered, some holding signs saying “We Support Sheriff Joe.”

Signs saying “Revoke Arpaio’s 287(g)” were among the most popu-

lar carried by the demonstrators. This refers to Arpaio’s official partnership with the U.S Department of Homeland Security (ICE) in carrying out the raids. Section 287(g) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act allows state police and employees to work under the supervision of ICE officers in performing so-called “immigration law enforcement functions.”

Salvador Reza, one of the central organizers of the February 28 demonstration, told the *Militant* that building on the success of the action, he hopes the movement against the raids can be strengthened nationally. Arpaio’s “posse,” he points out, is a threat not only to immigrants but to any worker who plans to go on strike or organize a union.

Campaign to win long-term ‘Militant’ readers 5% over goal

BY ANGEL LARISCY

Over four weeks, 420 people made the decision to renew their subscriptions to the *Militant* newspaper. The accompanying chart lists the final totals for the renewal drive, which made 105 percent of its goal.

The January 24 through February 24 campaign successfully expanded the long-term readership of the paper, while at the same time supporters of the socialist newsweekly deepened their political relationships with readers through visits to discuss politics and introduce them to revolutionary books and activities in their areas. During the same period, another 100 people subscribed to the paper for the first time.

While the campaign is over, the work can be built upon and strengthened in the coming months.

Those who renewed expressed their appreciation for a paper that offers what no other publication does—the truth about the impact of the capitalist economic crisis and the resistance and struggles of workers worldwide.

A young Burkinabé worker and student from Newark, New Jersey, renewed for six months and commented

about what he appreciated most about the *Militant*: “The articles about the five Cuban revolutionaries in U.S. jails. I learned something no other paper would teach me. It’s wrong what the U.S. government is doing to them.” He also decided to purchase the new Pathfinder titles *Is Socialist Revolution in the U.S. Possible?* and *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*.

Other readers wanted to discuss how to fight to build unions. “I work in a bakery. We lost the union five years ago. What can we do?” a Dominican worker asked New York supporters of the paper. After a discussion, he purchased a six-month renewal and asked them to return with books by Che Guevara and *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*.

In the coming months, supporters will be using the paper as the main instrument to campaign for Socialist Workers Party candidates in the United States and Communist League candidates in other countries, as they explain the need for workers to organize a revolutionary movement to take political power out of the hands of the capitalist class.

2009 ‘Militant’ Subscription Renewal Drive January 24 – February 24			
Country	Quota	Sold	%
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New York	45	53	118%
Los Angeles	20	23	115%
Seattle*	14	16	114%
Philadelphia	15	17	113%
San Francisco	25	28	112%
Twin Cities, MN	30	33	110%
Washington, D.C.	25	27	108%
Des Moines, IA*	18	19	106%
Houston	15	16	107%
Chicago	20	21	105%
Newark, NJ	20	21	105%
Boston	10	10	100%
Miami	25	25	100%
Atlanta	40	30	75%
U.S. Total	322	339	105%
AUSTRALIA	25	26	104%
UNITED KINGDOM			
Edinburgh	7	7	100%
London	15	12	80%
UK Total	22	19	86%
CANADA	15	17	113%
NEW ZEALAND	12	13	108%
SWEDEN	8	6	75%
Int’l Totals	404	420	105%
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* raised quota			



## ON THE PICKET LINE

### ***Oil workers' union fights for safety***

PHILADELPHIA—Oil workers and their supporters rallied on the steps of City Hall February 26 and marched to Sunoco, Inc., headquarters a few blocks away protesting the company's concession contract offer here.

The "Rally to Demand Safe Staffing Levels at Sunoco's Philadelphia Refinery," organized by United Steelworkers (USW) locals 10-1 and 10-901, attracted some 250 workers, who rode buses from refineries.

Members of USW Local 10-1 reached a tentative agreement March 2. Details were not yet available.

The union is demanding no reduction in the number of operators. The workers explain that a cut in operators would compromise safety and increase the likelihood of accidents, not only for them, but for residential communities around the refineries. A "flash fire" explosion at the one of the facilities injured two workers 14 days ago.

The company's proposal would slash the South Philadelphia refinery workforce by 25 percent. Seven

hundred union members work there. Another 430 workers are at the company's Marcus Hook refinery.

At company headquarters union officers delivered petitions signed by about 2,000 refinery neighborhood residents supporting the oil workers.

—Osborne Hart

### ***Indonesian workers rally for right to unions***

Hundreds of workers rallied outside the East Java High Court in Jakarta, Indonesia, February 25 to defend their right to organize unions. The rally was called by the Alliance of Workers in Protest out of concern that the court might reverse an 18-month sentence handed down by a lower court against a manager who prevented workers at the KJI plant from forming a union.

"This is the first time that the workers' right to associate has been legally protected," alliance member Anwar Sastro Ma'ruf told the *Jakarta Post*. University students also joined the rally.

In a closed door meeting with the workers' representatives, court officials said a decision had been reached on the KJI manager's appeal but that they could not divulge it without also



Militant/Kathy Mickells

Some 250 refinery workers marched in Philadelphia February 26 to demand safe staffing levels at Sunoco. United Steelworkers union organized the demonstration.

informing the manager and the prosecutor.

A spokesman for the alliance said that if the ruling was not to their liking "workers across East Java would

return to the streets in a much bigger rally," reported the *Post*.

—Sam Manuel

### ***Argentine farmers protest low prices, high taxes***

Farmers in Argentina ended a four-day halt in sale of grain and cattle February 24 after the government held talks with them over declining prices for their products and drought support for farmers. The same day some 200 farmers ended a one-day bank sit-in in the city of Parana demanding the rescheduling of farmers' debts.

Farmers are also demanding a reduction in a 35 percent export tax on soybeans. Farmers said the meeting with the representative for Argentine president Cristina Kirchner produced some mild results. While the government announced it would allocate \$1.3 billion to assist farmers it also said there would be no reduction in the export tax.

The tax on soybeans generated about 10 percent of the government's revenue in 2008, reported the *Wall Street Journal*. Argentina will be stretched to make about \$18 billion in debt payments due this year, while also launching an economic stimulus plan, the *Journal* said.

—Sam Manuel

## ***120,000 join union rally against job cuts in Ireland***

BY CAROLINE BELLAMY

DUBLIN, Ireland—City center was brought to a halt here as some 120,000 demonstrators marched February 21 to protest pay cuts for public sector workers. Trade union members and others from all over Ireland, a country of 4 million, rallied to express their anger at working people being made to pay for an economic crisis they did not create.

Workers from the Waterford Crystal plant led the march. They were applauded by hundreds lining the route. These workers occupied the visitor center at the plant January 30 when 480 of them saw their jobs summarily cut. The sit-in continues a month later.

Most of the marchers were public sector workers, including refuse collectors, transport workers, health and clerical workers, teachers, and some soldiers. The march also included civil service managers and cops. The Irish senate has passed a pension levy bill requiring public sector workers to contribute from 3 percent to 9 percent of their gross salaries toward their pensions. Some 12,000 members of the Civil and Public Service Union struck for one day February 26 against the levy. Other public sector unions are voting on whether to strike.

Leaders of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), which called the march, set a tone of class collaboration, despite their speeches being laced with anti-bank and anti-big business rhetoric. ICTU general secretary David Begg urged the government to implement ICTU's 10-point plan for economic recovery, called "There is a Better, Fairer Way." Since 1987 Irish trade unions have participated in "national agreements" with the government and bosses' organizations that set wage rates.

Many marchers wore T-shirts reading, "Fair Deal, not Raw Deal," and carried thousands of placards with slogans like "Protect our jobs, not the bankers"; "€7 bn bailout for bankers, €1 bn cut in health budget, it just

doesn't add up, minister"; and "Ireland Inc., is bankrupt and corrupt." (1 euro=US\$1.26.)

Some disagreed. Ray Coady, a construction worker from Waterford, said, "This social partnership is a waste of time. They want to break the public sector, then us."

Unemployment is rising at breakneck pace in Ireland. The numbers out of work were up by 69 percent in 2008. The unemployment rate rose from 4.5 percent at the start of 2008 to 7.7 percent by November. Particularly hard hit is the building sector, where employment fell 16.5 percent, along with wholesale and retail trade and financial services. The number of immigrant workers shrank by 5,400.

Short time working is increasingly common. At the Dublin demonstration Jack Donnelly, a member of the Services, Industrial, Professional and

Technical Union (SIPTU) and worker at a Kildare carpet factory for 46 years, said, "We've been on a three-day week since January 12, and we're not the only ones." In Tuam, County Galway, SIPTU estimates that a third of the town's working population is now on a three- or four-day workweek.

The world capitalist crisis is hitting Ireland particularly hard. During the week leading up to the February 21 march, the media reported that capitalists moved up to 10 billion euros in funds out of Ireland in the wake of a banking scandal. A small country with none of the resources of the imperialist powers, Ireland's "Celtic Tiger" years saw higher per-capita incomes than any European Union country except Luxembourg by 2006. This was largely funded by export growth and during the past few years by a massive property boom and associated expansion of credit.

## 25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



### **March 16, 1984**

Evidence is mounting that the Iraqi government has been using chemical weapons in its 42-month war against Iran.

Iranian officials have been charging for several months that its troops have come under attack from poison gas. Now even the Reagan administration—which has more and more openly sided with Iraq in the war—has had to recognize that "the available evidence" indicates that "lethal chemical weapons" have been used against Iran.

The Iran-Iraq war began in September 1980 with a massive Iraqi invasion of Iran. Washington and its imperialist allies welcomed the Iraqi invasion because they shared [Saddam] Hussein's fear that the revolutionary upsurge in Iran could spread to Iraq and other Arab countries.



### **March 16, 1959**

The second-class citizenship forced on Negroes in the U.S. can be seen in its political and social forms by a glance at civil rights (or the lack of them) and such things as segregated housing. It takes only another glance at the unemployment figures to see the economic form of this second-class citizenship.

The unemployment rate among Negro workers is twice as great as among white workers. As the current issue of *Fortune* magazine puts it: "So far as Negroes were concerned, the 'recession' was a real depression." In March, 1958, over 15 percent of male Negro workers were unemployed.

Firings, due to automation and layoffs, hit the unskilled and semi-skilled workers and the workers with the least seniority the hardest.



### **March 17, 1934**

The silk workers of Paterson [New Jersey] have been given a wage-cut.

The sorriest feature of the wage-cut is that it actually came about through the votes of the workers representatives themselves who were maneuvered by the bosses on the Industrial Relations Board to vote for it "in order not to break the contract."

A great ferment has developed among the workers because of this. All along they have been expecting wage increases as the bosses promised when the strike was settled.

Against a solid, militant resistance, the tactics of the bosses would prove fruitless. But the union must first be consolidated. To this day there are rat shops in Paterson running 7 or more looms per man like the Maxwell. Every union in Paterson must be a union shop.



# Revolutions are rooted in changing social relations

Printed below are excerpts from *Socialism: Utopian and Scientific* by Frederick Engels, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for March. This short work, written in the 1870s by the cofounder along with Karl Marx of the modern communist movement, describes how utopian socialism emerged in the early 19th century as a response to the horrors of capitalism. It explains how socialism was put on a scientific basis by Marx and Engels as the theoretical expression of the working-class movement in its revolutionary fight to overthrow the rule of capital and conquer state power. Copyright © 1972 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### BY FREDERICK ENGELS

The materialist conception of history starts from the proposition that the production of the means to support human life and, next to production, the exchange of things produced, is the basis of all social structure; that in every society that has appeared in history, the manner in which wealth is distributed and society divided into classes or orders is dependent upon what is produced, how it is produced, and how the products are exchanged. From this point of view the final causes of all social changes and



Ed Lallo/ZUMA/Corbis

Workers process beef at meatpacking plant in Wichita, Kansas, January 2004. Production has “changed from a series of individual into a series of social acts, and the products from individual to social products,” writes Engels. “The new productive forces have already outgrown the capitalistic mode of using them.”

political revolutions are to be sought not in men's brains, not in man's better insight into eternal truth and justice, but in changes in the modes of production and exchange. They are to be sought not in the *philosophy*, but in the *economics* of each particular epoch. The growing perception that existing social institutions are unreasonable and unjust, that reason has become unreason, and right wrong, is only proof that in the modes of production and exchange changes have silently taken place with which the social order, adapted to earlier economic conditions, is no longer in keeping. From this it also follows that the means of getting rid of the incongruities that have been brought to light must also be present, in a more or less developed condition, within the changed modes of production and exchange themselves. These means are not to be invented by deduction from fundamental principles, but are to be discovered in the stubborn facts of the existing system of production.

What is, then, the position of modern socialism in this connection?

The present structure of society—this is now pretty generally conceded—is the creation of the ruling class of today, of the bourgeoisie. The mode of production peculiar to the bourgeoisie, known, since Marx, as the capitalist mode of production, was incompatible with the feudal system, with the privileges it conferred upon individuals, entire social ranks, and local corporations, as well as

with the hereditary ties of subordination which constituted the framework of its social organization. The bourgeoisie broke up the feudal system and built upon its ruins the capitalist order of society, the kingdom of free competition, of personal liberty, of the equality before the law of all commodity owners, of all the rest of the capitalist blessings. Thenceforward the capitalist mode of production could develop in freedom. Since steam, machinery, and the making of machines by machinery transformed the older manufacture into modern industry, the productive forces that evolved under the guidance of the bourgeoisie developed with a rapidity and in a degree unheard of before. But just as the older manufacture, in its time, and handicraft, becoming more developed under its influence, had come into collision with the feudal trammels of the guilds, so now modern industry, in its more complete development, comes into collision with the bounds within which the capitalistic mode of production holds it confined. The new productive forces have already outgrown the capitalistic mode of using them. And this conflict between productive forces and modes of production is not a conflict engendered in the mind of man, like that between original sin and divine justice. It exists in fact, objectively, outside us, independently of the will and actions even of the men that have brought it on. Modern socialism is nothing but the re-

flex, in thought, of this conflict in fact; its ideal reflection in the minds, first, of the class directly suffering under it, the working class.

Now, in what does this conflict consist?

Before capitalistic production, i.e., in the Middle Ages, the system of petty industry obtained generally, based upon the private property of the laborers in their means of production; in the country, the agriculture of the small peasant, freeman or serf; in the towns, the handicrafts organized in guilds. The instruments of labor—land, agricultural implements, the workshop, the tool—were the instruments of labor of single individuals, adapted for the use of one worker and therefore, of necessity, small, dwarfish, circumscribed. But for this very reason they belonged, as a rule, to the producer himself. To concentrate these scattered, limited means of production, to enlarge them, to turn them into the powerful levers of production of the present day—this was precisely the historic role of capitalist production and of its upholder, the bourgeoisie. In the fourth section of *Capital*, Marx has explained in detail how since the fifteenth century this has been historically worked out through the three phases of simple cooperation, manufacture, and modern industry. But the bourgeoisie, as is also shown there, could not transform these puny means of production into mighty productive forces without transforming them, at the same time, from means of production of the individual into *social* means of production workable only by a collectivity of men. The spinning wheel, the hand loom, the blacksmith's hammer, were replaced by the spinning machine, the power loom, the steam hammer; the individual workshop, by the factory implying the cooperation of hundreds and thousands of workmen. In like manner, production itself changed from a series of individual into a series of social acts, and the products from individual to social products. The yarn, the cloth, the metal articles that now came out of the factory were the joint product of many workers, through whose hands they had successively to pass before they were ready. No one person could say of them: “I made that; this is *my* product.”

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March

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

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# Ford pact with UAW cuts retirees’ health-care funds

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Ford Motor Company reached agreement with United Auto Workers (UAW) officials February 23 on a plan that puts health-care funds for retired auto workers in serious jeopardy. The deal allows Ford to pay up to 50 percent of the \$13.2 billion it owes to a retirees’ health fund in stock instead of cash.

Ford stock is close to worthless today, valued at about \$1.80 a share, down 72 percent over the past 12 months. General Motors shares, which plummeted 92 percent from a year ago, are at about the same value.

“We will use our discretion in determining whether cash or stock makes sense” for “preserving shareholder value,” stated Joseph Hinrichs, Ford’s Group Vice President for Global Manufacturing and Labor Affairs, in praising the agreement.

The concessions pact with Ford also calls for eliminating cost-of-living pay increases and bonuses of about \$1,100 a year, and ending the jobs bank, which provides pay and benefits to laid-off workers. UAW officials unanimously recommended union members ratify these cutbacks by March 9.

Both GM and Chrysler are seeking to impose similar concessions on the union as part of reaching agreement for a new government bailout of \$22 billion, which is in addition to the \$17.4 billion they have already been given. Ford is currently not requesting such “loans” from the government.

In 2007 Chrysler, Ford, and GM succeeded in ending company responsibility for funding health-care coverage for retired workers. Instead, a union-run trust fund called a Voluntary Employees’ Beneficiary Association (VEBA) was created. GM prom-

ised to put about \$36 billion into the VEBA, about 70 percent of the company’s prior liability for health insurance. The trust fund is supposed to pay all health-care costs for retired unionists starting Jan. 1, 2010.

Rather than defending the retirees, UAW officials have argued that helping Ford, GM, and Chrysler increase their profits is the best way to save the jobs of those still working. Speaking of the latest deal with Ford, UAW president Ron Gettelfinger said February 23, “The modifications will protect jobs for UAW members by ensuring the long-term viability of the company.”

GM has estimated that it owes \$20 billion to the health trust, with more than \$10 billion due by next year. Chrysler owes the fund \$10 billion. GM is demanding that UAW officials agree to the same deal that Ford got. They are also proposing that \$10 billion in cash payments owed to the fund be made over 20 years, said GM chief financial officer Ray Young.

Company-paid health care for active and retired workers were important gains won by the UAW through earlier fights. However, over the past several years the Big Three have succeeded in reducing these benefits for some 800,000 retired auto workers. The 2005 and 2007 contractual agreements forced single retirees to pay a deductible of \$159 a month and \$11 premiums. The companies’ latest moves will mean much more significant cuts in health-care coverage.

In a related development, the Delphi Corporation, the largest parts supplier to General Motors, received authorization February 24 from the judge presiding over bankruptcy proceedings to end health-care benefits for about

## Pathfinder publishes first book in Arabic

Cover of the Arabic edition of *The First and Second Declarations of Havana*, the first book published by Pathfinder in that language. This title, which Pathfinder has also published in English, Spanish, and French, contains manifestos of revolutionary struggle in the Americas issued by the Cuban people in 1960 and 1962 that pose key questions of strategy confronting working people in the fight for political power today. The new Arabic edition was published in collaboration with Georges Mehrabian in Athens, Greece, working with translators in Lebanon. Later this year Pathfinder will publish its second Arabic title, the *Communist Manifesto*. Diethnes Vima, based in Athens, published an Arabic-language edition of *The First and Second Declarations of Havana* in 2007.



15,000 salaried employees.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation and Health Research Educational Trust, 20 years ago two-thirds of major U.S. companies that provided employees with health benefits also provided coverage to retirees. This figure has now dropped to less than one-third today.

The auto barons are also seeking to end supplemental unemployment benefits, which for 54 years have provided laid-off workers with as much as 95 percent of their net pay. At GM, the bosses are cutting 47,000 more jobs worldwide—26,000 of them outside the United States. A company spokesperson said the drop in car sales over the last two years is about equal to the production capacity of 24 assembly plants.

With its U.S. sales sharply declining—down 23 percent in 2008—and the threat of bankruptcy looming, GM wants \$16.6 billion from the U.S. government on top of the \$13.4 billion in loans it already has received. The auto

company is also seeking \$6 billion in bailout funds from the governments of Canada, Germany, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, and the United Kingdom, for its non-U.S. operations. As part of its reorganization plans to be completed by March 31, GM is seeking to cut “labor costs” by \$1.2 billion in Europe, reported the *Detroit Free Press*.

Thousands of auto workers employed by the Opel, Vauxhall, and Saab divisions of GM demonstrated February 26 to oppose moves to close plants and eliminate jobs. Some 15,000 people rallied at an Opel plant in Rueselsheim, a suburb of Frankfurt, Germany, that day.

Thousands rallied by GM’s Saab division plant in Trolhattan, Sweden. Saab, a division of GM that employs about 15,000 workers in Sweden, has filed for bankruptcy. Demonstrations were also held at GM factories in Austria, Belgium, France, Poland, Russia, Spain, and the United Kingdom, reported Bloomberg News.

## More ‘blood money’ contributions roll in from class-conscious workers

“On the way is my check for \$52.30 in blood money,” wrote Lisa Potash, a sewing-machine operator in Atlanta. Potash was among workers in her plant who received \$50 shopping cards for purchases at a local grocery chain. She also received a \$2.30 production bonus.

Sending in these “bonuses” from the bosses to the Capital Fund, which goes to advance the long-term publishing program of the communist movement, is consistent with the long and proud tradition of workers in the revolutionary socialist movement not accepting company “blood money” bribes. They’re called that because they’re used to buy our silence about speedup, long hours, and unsafe work conditions. They come with our blood and that of fellow workers on them.

The Capital Fund makes it possible to produce the political weapons workers need to understand the laws of the wages system and be better equipped to fight to abolish this system for all time and replace it with the rule of working people.

Contributions of this kind to the fund continue to roll in. Vivian Sahner, also from Atlanta, sent in an incentive bonus of \$840.39. She noted that the company sent out a memo the same week asking for volunteers to cut their hours of work “and unfortunately our pay as well.”

Jerry Freiwirth, a refinery worker in the San Francisco Bay Area, sent \$1,400, the amount after taxes from a contract-signing bonus.

Communist workers are also finding innovative ways to turn the various forms in which they receive blood-money bribes into contributions to the communist movement. Five meat packers from Des Moines, Iowa—Diana Newberry, Helen Meyers, Chuck Guerra, David Rosenfeld, and Rebecca Williamson—received grocery coupons from their employers. “After discussing how to turn the coupons into cash we decided to use them for shopping and donate an equivalent amount to the Capital Fund,” Newberry told the *Militant*. They sent in \$100.58.

John Hawkins, a cutter in a Chicago area meatpacking plant, sent in a \$155 holiday bonus he received just before also getting a layoff notice.

—SAM MANUEL

## Ukraine gov’t near collapse

Continued from front page

ment and the national bank to agree that the money allocated by the International Monetary Fund, at least part of it, should go to regular people.”

A crowd of retired workers gathered outside the Rodovid Bank February 27, which was close to failing. The bank limited customers’ withdrawals to no more than \$35 a day. Dmitri Havrilkiv, a retired crane operator, said, “The government has to be replaced. They just can’t handle it!”

Several dozen protesters set up a tent city in Kiev’s central square to demand the government step down. Twenty-nine-year-old Vasily Kirilyuk, an unemployed plumber, held a sign saying “Get rid of them all.” He told the *Times*, “There will be a revolt. And people will come because they are just fed up.”

In 2004, massive mobilizations of working people, dubbed the “Orange Revolution,” negated a rigged presidential election and brought to power Viktor Yushchenko, viewed as much more friendly to the United States than to Russia. Today, a poll shows 57 percent of the population wants him out of office.

Ukraine declared independence

from the Soviet Union in 1991. The government instituted capitalist market reforms and eventually saw sustained economic growth of about 7 percent a year from 2000 to 2007. Workers’ incomes rose.

But by the middle of 2008, the worldwide capitalist economic crisis began to have its effects. There was a sharp drop in demand for steel, which is 40 percent of Ukraine’s exports. Foreign investment contracted.

Ukrainian working people are bearing the brunt of the crisis. With municipal governments unable to pay basic service bills, many have gone without heat or water for days at a time. Thousands have been laid off in the steel mills.

The March 2 *Kyiv Post* reported that Russian president Dmitri Medvedev is threatening to put Ukraine on a “prepay” gas plan if it fails to pay its bill by March 7.

EU leaders have rejected a request from the government of Hungary for some \$228 billion in loans for Ukraine and other eastern European countries. The International Monetary Fund canceled payment of a \$16.4 billion loan to Ukraine in February, charging that Kiev had failed to cut the national budget enough.



# Book on Africa helps you see yourself

## ‘Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa’ highlights the new class

The following are major excerpts from the remarks by the three speakers at the presentation of *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa: Reports from Equatorial Guinea, held February 19 at the Havana International Book Fair. Mary-Alice Waters, coauthor of the book, is president of Pathfinder Press. Teresa Efua Asangono is the ambassador of Equatorial Guinea in Cuba. Víctor Dreke, until August 2008 Cuba’s ambassador to Equatorial Guinea, is today vice president in charge of international relations for the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution and vice president of the Cuba-Africa Friendship Association. The talk by Waters is © 2009 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.*

### ‘We fight to transform the world we live in’

BY MARY-ALICE WATERS

When Martín Koppel and I had the pleasure of meeting Ambassador Teresa Efua Asangono a few days ago, she asked us why we had written this book, *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*. It was a good question. And like all good questions, it made us both stop and think.

The basic answer is that we wanted to share with others—above all, working people in the United States and young people whose minds are open to the world—the education we had received from the people of Equatorial Guinea during the two trips we made there in 2005 and 2008. We wanted to help our readers understand the interconnected and contradictory world in which we live *today*, the world we refuse to accept simply as it is, the world we fight to transform. We wanted to help others begin to think as citizens of the *world*, as citizens of world *history*.

Most working people in the United States know little about conditions of life in Africa. They know little about the vast changes under way in many regions there. There is one big exception, of course—the growing millions from across that vast continent who have found themselves compelled by the lash of imperialist exploitation to leave their homelands to seek work and to take their chances on life in another land. These Africans now living in United States *do*

know firsthand about conditions in their countries of origin, and they *do* add to the transformation of the working class in North America.

As those of you here today are aware, the picture of Africa most often presented by the media in the United States and many other countries portrays the people of Africa only as helpless victims, suffering conditions of inhuman violence and incapable of taking their own future in hand. You would think they live on charity from the imperialist foundations of the billionaire families whose riches, more often than not, are the historical product of the superexploitation of those to whom they now dole out a few dollars at a time.

The reality we saw in Equatorial Guinea was quite different from this picture, and more complex. We tried to capture that reality in the words and photos of this book.

### A provocative title

I want to say something about the title: *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*. More than one reader has said to me, “Aren’t you a socialist, a communist? Doesn’t that title give capitalism credit for transforming Africa?”

The truth is that we started with something different. Our working title had been *Imperialist Plunder and the Transformation of Africa*. Pabulum! It was a title that did not challenge anyone to think about anything. Those centuries of colonial and imperial domination, in all their brutal and bloody detail, have been lived by millions and the story told in hundreds—no *thousands*—of books. We had even designed a cover with that title, a very attractive one. And the more we looked at it, the more we knew: that’s not what this book is about.

So we decided on a title we knew might be somewhat provocative, but more accurate as to our intentions.

This book is about the changes you can see all around you in Equatorial Guinea today, as government revenues—derived from the fruits of the labor of employees of imperialist companies extracting oil from offshore waters—are used in part to build an infrastructure on which advancing labor productivity, industry, education, and progress depend. But it is indeed capitalism and capitalist social relations that are emerg-



Militant/Ben Joyce

Left to right: Iraidia Aguirrechu of Editora Política; Mary-Alice Waters, president of Pathfinder Press; Teresa Efua Asangono, Equatorial Guinea ambassador in Cuba; and Víctor Dreke, recent Cuban ambassador in Equatorial Guinea speaking at Havana International Book Fair.

ing, as they have in other parts of the world at other historical junctures.

The book puts the spotlight on the transformation of the instruments of production and the new class relations, the new social relations, that are emerging. It puts the spotlight on a working class that is being born, drawn from the four corners of the world—from Mali to Paraguay, from China to the Dominican Republic—in, and only in, the same measure as a bourgeoisie is arising, together with expanding layers of traders, middlemen, and professionals.

This is a historical process that strengthens the hand of working people internationally, because it diminishes the yawning chasm of the material conditions and class relations that divide us in different parts of the globe. Every new road, every new source of electricity, every new phone tower, every expansion of the availability of drinkable water, every new clinic, school, and library makes it harder for those who live off the exploitation of our labor power to drive a wedge between “us” and “them”—between the working people of the United States and other imperialist countries, on the one hand, and the toilers of Africa and the rest of the world, on the other.

Recognition of these historical and social realities does not make me a partisan of capitalism. To the contrary. Understanding them helps one to become a more conscious proletarian internationalist. To quote the title of the lead article in one of the recent issues of the magazine *New International*, “Our Politics Start with the World.”

### Cuba’s socialist example

At the same time—and just as importantly—this is a book about the Cuban Revolution and Cuba’s place in Africa, and in the world. Without seeing this, it would be much more difficult to be confident of the road forward not only in Africa, but *anywhere*.

The practical example of Cuba’s socialist revolution is seen in the hand of proletarian solidarity extended to the people of Equatorial Guinea by the 230 Cuban internationalists working there. Through them, through their actions,

we see the kind of human beings only a socialist revolution can begin to produce—and the kind of human beings necessary to defend and advance a socialist revolution.

And I want to emphasize, this is the example our five Cuban brothers unjustly held hostage in the prisons of the United States are giving the world—the steadfastness and dignity of millions of men and women who embody the revolution in their actions each day.

One of the most striking things for me in Equatorial Guinea was the relationship between the Cuban medical school teachers and their students, the *absence* of the antagonistic relationship that marks all education in capitalist society. Teachers in the United States, as elsewhere in the capitalist world, often become a transmission belt for breaking and harnessing, as opposed to encouraging, the creative discipline and spirit—the aspirations—of their students. The pride of the Cuban teachers in the development of their students, and the respect and affection of the students towards their teachers, were a remarkable



Farmers block entrance to Latvian agricultural ministry in Riga, February 3. The February 20 collapse of the government there is another casualty of growing worldwide capitalist crisis into which toilers around the world, from Europe to Africa, are being drawn.



Audience at presentation of *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*



# ‘as citizen of world and world history’

## Class and social relations emerging as a working class is being born

testimony that social relations different from those we know under capitalism can be forged.

There is one question we are often asked by workers and youth who are trying to understand why the U.S. rulers are so ferocious in their determination to make you, the Cuban people, pay for your refusal to surrender to the demands of the empire. Why do Cuban doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, and others offer their services to live and work in places around the world where their counterparts in no other country on the face of the earth are willing to go?

The answer we give is simple. This is possible because the workers and farmers of Cuba made a socialist revolution half a century ago—truly took their destiny into their own hands—and began building a society on different social and economic foundations. A society based on the conscious class solidarity of the toilers, the creators of all wealth and culture.

However difficult this effort has been, especially in face of Washington’s unceasing aggression—however imperfect the results (and there are no more demanding critics than the Cuban people themselves)—the example of the Cuban Revolution continues to stand today as the beacon of what working people the world over are capable of achieving.

### Weight of Africa’s toilers

I want to finish by referring to the now accelerating contraction of capitalist production and circulation that is now in its early stages worldwide and the accompanying global economic crisis—deepening even as we meet!—that falls on us all with increasing weight.

The decades of intertwined military conflicts and economic, political, and social crises that lie ahead of us will be more like the early decades of the 20th century that culminated in wars spreading across the world than anything we have known during the conscious political lifetimes of any of us here today. The future of humanity will be decided by the capacity of the working class and its allies to resolve this crisis by organiz-

ing to take the power to rule out of the hands of the capitalist owners—as the working people of Cuba showed us how to do half a century ago.

As the crisis of world capitalism that we have entered continues to sharpen, as it waxes and wanes in the years ahead of us, there are two things we can say with certainty:

Working people who are today coming together in the United States—drawn from every continent the world over—will be at the center of revolutionary struggles unlike anything we have known.

And, as the people of Equatorial Guinea helped us see, the weight of the toilers of Africa in shaping the future of humanity will be greater than ever before.

That is the course we hope to explain and advance with *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa*.

### Book ‘seeks to tell truth’ about Africa

BY TERESA EFUA ASANGONO

It is with pride that I speak at this cultural event presenting the book *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa: Reports from Equatorial Guinea*. I say with pride, because it is evident that the authors—besides rejecting the traditional and habitual approach of other authors and the press toward Africa, of portraying it as a disaster—have sought to carry out investigative research, explaining the general reality about Africa, and in particular about Equatorial Guinea, pointing to deficiencies and stressing successes. . . .

At the time it gained national independence on Oct. 12, 1968, our country only had small roads, mostly unpaved, and traditional paths used to search for coffee, cocoa, and other raw materials from the bush in order to transport them to the port for subsequent export to Europe.

Equatorial Guinea, like the rest of Africa, is paying the steep price of a bill that dates from the colonization of its people. When we look at the charges in that bill, we find the sad reality of a lack of road infrastructure, universities, primary schools and literacy, electrification, hospitals, access to clean water, qualified personnel, and a long list of et ceteras. Today we confront the need to carry out the bulk of those tasks across the country, without excluding any region. . . .

The first world countries did not allow us to evolve slowly through experience, as they did, researching and acquiring consciousness. Rather, what was imposed on us was an advanced civilization that was already prepackaged and unsustainable, where the illiterate native inhabitants, with rights to nothing and with all the limitations imposed by the colony, were unable to fit in.

Who can be a TV host without knowing how to read and write, and without ever having seen a studio? Who can enter a university if they have not reached the level of primary education? Who would know the norms of hygiene if they have never been taught? . . .

The few native specialists who were



Militant/Ben Joyce

**Teresa Efua Asangono, ambassador of Equatorial Guinea in Cuba.**

trained in the metropolis became their property and never returned. To this day the West imports the few intellectuals Africa has.

For all practical purposes, one could not speak of cities in Equatorial Guinea, although the capital, Malabo, and the city of Bata had a few solidly constructed buildings. The country was a string of villages without any modern infrastructure.

Today one can see modern highways and roads throughout the country, modern houses, hospitals, and other buildings for different uses. Many will say this is thanks to the oil. But in fact, Equatorial Guinea is a country of promise due to the will of its own people, to the solidarity and support of fraternal countries like Cuba, China, and others, and to the wise governance of its president, His Excellency Obiang Nguema Mbasogo.

When we speak of fraternal countries, we want to highlight here the great work carried out by Cuba in the consolidation of a medical brigade and in the training of Equatorial Guinean doctors—all thanks to the solidarity always displayed by Cuba on the African continent. . . .

The book being presented today at this book fair—we won’t say it’s perfect, but we do value the high level of work done by its authors, who have sought to tell the truth, showing both deficiencies and accomplishments, highlighting the rich culture of Equatorial Guinea—what many other au-

thors tend to omit. . . . The book could have been presented in Equatorial Guinea, but it was presented in Cuba, where there are so many friends of the Guinean people.

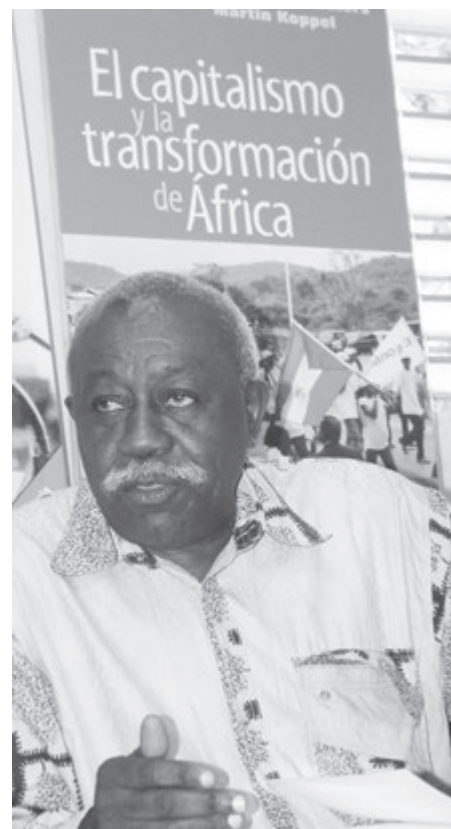
### ‘We were friends before the oil’

BY VÍCTOR DREKE

The friendship between Cuba and Africa goes back many years. Before Equatorial Guinea had oil, when it was one of the most underdeveloped countries in the African continent, we Cubans were friends of the Equatorial Guineans. We didn’t know they were going to find oil. Now they have an abundance of friends. But we were with Equatorial Guinea from the beginning. . . .

In fact, the history of Cuba’s ties with Equatorial Guinea goes back years. In 1868 and 1869, more than 250 Cubans who were fighting for Cuba’s independence were deported to Fernando Poo, as they called Equatorial Guinea at that time, when it was subjugated by Spain. They were sent there to die, to a place considered to be one of the worst of

**Continued on page 10**



Militant/Jonathan Silberman

**Víctor Dreke, former Cuban ambassador to Equatorial Guinea.**

### Recommended reading

#### Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa

An account of the transformation of this Central African country, part of a region of the world now being pulled into the world market as never before. In the process, both a capitalist class and a working class are being born.

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#### Our Politics Start With the World

In New International No. 13

by Jack Barnes

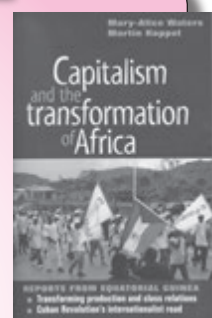
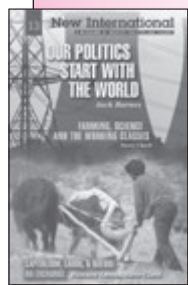
“We are part of an international class that has no homeland. That’s not a slogan. That’s not a moral imperative. It is a recognition of the class reality of economic, social, and political life in the imperialist epoch.” —**\$14**

*Complete catalog online:  
www.pathfinderpress.com  
or see book centers on page 6*



Militant/Ben Joyce

**Transformation of Africa at Havana book fair February 19**





# Havana Int’l Book Fair

Continued from page one

try are currently studying in Cuba.

On February 19 *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa* was presented at the Havana International Book Fair. On the speakers’ platform, as in the university meeting, were ambassador Efua; Victor Dreke, until recently Cuba’s ambassador to Equatorial Guinea; and Mary-Alice Waters, coauthor of the book and president of Pathfinder. The meeting was chaired by Iraida Aguirrechu, current political affairs editor at Editora Política, the publishing house of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba.

The following week 80 people attended a presentation of this and other recently published Pathfinder titles at a meeting in Güines, a town 30 miles southeast of Havana. It was sponsored by the Association of Combatants of the Cuban Revolution.

In the audience at the book fair presentation were several Cubans with a long record of internationalist work in Africa. They included Ulises Estrada, who shouldered major responsibility for logistics and security in Cuba’s internationalist missions in Africa and Latin America in the 1960s; Alberto Granado, director of Casa de Africa (Africa House), a research center and museum; Francisco Martínez Bulnes, director of the Africa department at the Cuban Institute for Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP); and Pablo Hernández, representative for Africa of the Cuban pharmaceutical company Biofam. Also in attendance were half a dozen students from São Tomé and Príncipe—an African nation in the Gulf of Guinea—who are going to school in Cuba.

## Fight to transform world

*Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa* was written, Waters explained, because “we wanted to share with others—above all working people in the United States and young people whose minds are open to the world—the education we had received from the people of Equatorial Guinea during the two trips we made there in 2005 and 2008. We wanted to help our readers understand the world in which we live today, the world we refuse to accept simply as it is, the world we fight to transform” in the interests of the vast majority of humanity. (See accompanying excerpts from the remarks by Waters, Efua, and Dreke.)

Waters said the book puts the changing economic and class relations in Equatorial Guinea today in historical perspective. Equally important, she noted, this is a book “about the Cuban revolution and Cuba’s place in Africa and in the world. Without seeing this, it would be much more difficult to be confident of the road forward in Africa—or anywhere else in the world. The practical example of Cuba’s socialist revolution is seen in the hand of proletarian solidarity extended to the people of Equatorial Guinea by 230 Cuban internationalists,” among them medical personnel, teachers, and electrical workers.

Efua noted that the book portrays the progress being made by the people of Equatorial Guinea today as they confront the colonial legacy of “lack of road infrastructure, universities, primary schools and literacy, electrification, hospitals, access to clean water,

qualified personnel,” and other foundations for progress. She saluted the “solidarity always displayed by Cuba on the African continent,” including with her own country.

## Cuba’s solidarity with Africa

“Before Equatorial Guinea had oil, when it was one of the most underdeveloped countries of the African continent, we Cubans were friends of the Equatorial Guineans,” said Dreke. Cuba’s hand of friendship goes back more than four decades, when Equatorial Guinea won its independence from Spain, Dreke said. The historic ties between Cuba and what is now Equatorial Guinea go back even further—to the 1860s, when Cuban independence fighters in the first war against Spanish rule were deported to Fernando Poo, as the island of Bioko, today part of Equatorial Guinea, was known.

Dreke detailed some of the many projects the Equatorial Guinean and Cuban governments have embarked on together since 2000. These range from a medical cooperation effort that has expanded access to health care throughout the country, including the most remote regions, and the training of Guinean youth as doctors, nurses, and other medical personnel; to programs advancing education, electrification, and other basic needs.

“I was very pleased to learn about this book,” said Pedro Elo Obama in an interview after the meeting at the University of Havana. “There are few books about Equatorial Guinea, and hardly any that don’t approach our country as a wreck.”

Elo was one of the many Guinean students who snapped up Pathfinder books on a range of political subjects that were on sale at the book fair and at the University of Havana presentation. Altogether more than 300 copies of *Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa* in Spanish and English were sold at the Havana book fair and other presentations or donated to the national, provincial, and university libraries across the island.

*Jonathan Silberman and Omari Musa participated in the reporting trips to Equatorial Guinea in 2005 and 2008, respectively, both of which led to the publication of Capitalism and the Transformation of Africa.*

# New law would cede travel rights to president

BY BEN JOYCE

Bills were introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate in February to adjust Washington’s policy on travel restrictions to Cuba, lifting some previous restrictions while giving the president authority to withdraw travel rights at will. They reflect the debate among the U.S. rulers about how to most effectively advance their long-term goal of overthrowing the Cuban Revolution.

Titled the “Freedom to Travel to Cuba Act,” bills S 428 in the Senate and HR 874 in the House would void regulations that control or prohibit travel to Cuba and revoke the right of the president to do so under “normal” circumstances.

Both bills, however, have explicit “exceptions” that allow the president to deny the right to travel to Cuba at will. The bills state that travel rights



Militant/Martin Koppel

Bridge over Senye River, paved only last year, on road from Mbini to Kogo, Equatorial Guinea. Country “like the rest of Africa, is paying steep price” of colonization of its people, says Teresa Efua, Equatorial Guinea ambassador to Cuba.

# Citizen of world and history

Continued from page 9

Spain’s penal centers.

After the country won its independence, on Oct. 12, 1968, official relations between Equatorial Guinea and Cuba began very soon, and Cubans went there to fulfill their responsibility of assisting an independent country, no matter what the situation. You have to help an independent African country. That was our job.

In 2000 we strengthened our collaboration with Equatorial Guinea. We remember that the situation was very serious: there were few teachers, few doctors there. Then President Obiang asked Fidel for some teachers and doctors. And one fine morning, a plane landed. Not with mercenaries—it was a Cubana de Aviación plane with the first 100 doctors to help Equatorial Guinea.

At that time there were no homes in Malabo for them to stay in. So many of them were put up for months in the homes of government ministers and party leaders. As a result, our doctors became even more closely tied to the people of Equatorial Guinea.

A public health program was created and established throughout the country—we have compañeros working in all of the country’s 18 districts. They have developed their work under very difficult conditions. They have been improving it, as you will be able to read in this book—I won’t tell you everything that’s in the book, because

if I do, then you won’t read it.

We also have compañeros there working in education, including a literacy plan whose first stage is aimed at women.

There is also a major anti-rat plan being carried out with the collaboration of the Cuban company Biofam. It was carried out in Annobón, a small island very close to São Tomé and Príncipe, where there were a large number of rats. Now this plan is also being carried out with success in Malabo and Bata. . . .

We also have the medical school in Equatorial Guinea. There they study through the fifth year. The students spend their sixth year at the medical school in Pinar del Río, Cuba. It’s in Pinar where the largest number of Equatorial Guineans in Cuba are studying.

Right now we have a group of 26 electrical workers in Bata and Malabo, who are deeply involved in work there. You will read in the book about the challenges of electrification, and the plans for electrification in the country.

In other words, we are working on some of the most basic questions: education, health, and electrification. And culture too, with the very positive experience of the first book fair in 2005. . . . These are reasons why the compañeros from Pathfinder traveled twice to Equatorial Guinea, to see the country and participate in a series of events there.



# United defense of Cuban Revolution

A picket by some 70 people in New York City March 1 to counter an action by opponents of the Cuban Revolution was an important example of united action to defend the first free territory—the first socialist revolution—in the Americas.

The draconian U.S. government embargo against Cuba aims to punish the Cuban workers and farmers for their 1959 revolution, which ended U.S. domination of the island forever. Washington aims to stiffened the penalty the Cuban people must pay for embarking on the road to socialism, and for Cuba’s internationalist solidarity with working people fighting for liberation the world over.

The embargo increases the difficulties faced in Cuba after hurricanes Gustav and Ike, which ravaged the island in late August and early September, damaging one-third of planted farmland, 500,000 homes, and thousands of schools and health-care facilities.

The embargo has caused some \$225 billion in economic losses. It is also an assault on the democratic rights of working people in the United States to travel, meet, and talk with workers, farmers, and youth in another country.

The flyer publicizing the March 1 picket, however, included two other demands that cut across building the most united, and thus effective, demonstration in defense of Cuba. The demands called for passage of two bills in the U.S. Congress—HR 874 and S 428—that would restore the ability of U.S. citizens to travel to Cuba *unless* the U.S. president decides the United States “is at war with Cuba, armed hostilities between the two countries are in progress, or there is imminent danger to the public health or physical safety of U.S. travelers.” In other words, the White House can revoke the constitutional right to

travel at will.

Including support to such legislation among demands of the New York picket narrowed rather than broadened united action. Because at least the Socialist Workers Party, and perhaps other individuals and organizations that actively built and joined in the March 1 protest, oppose those demands. The *Militant*, which has a 50-year record of unconditional defense of the Cuban Revolution, would never lend support to legislation abridging the rights of working people—in the United State, Cuba, or elsewhere.

Of course individuals and groups participating in the action against the embargo—or any united social protest event—express their own views through carrying placards, handing out flyers, and distributing newspapers, books, and other literature. That *strengthens* united action, and at the same time encourages civil discussion on the array of views held by participants. In order to ensure such unity, however, leaflets and other publicity need to focus on demands backed by all those who support the action—such as: “*End the travel ban against Cuba! Now!*”

As today’s capitalist economic crisis deepens and spreads worldwide, the rulers in Washington and elsewhere are stepping up assaults on working people—including the people of Cuba, where workers and farmers wrested political power from the exploiters and have begun building a society based on new social relations, on human solidarity. That calls for the broadest united action to end the U.S. government travel ban and economic embargo once and for all, and to normalize relations with Cuba.

Emulate the initiative of those who organized and turned out for the protest in New York City March 1!

## N.Y. rally defends Cuban Revolution

Continued from front page

and called for Washington to normalize relations with the Cuban government. Demonstrators also demanded freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries who have been unjustly held in U.S. jails for a decade on frame-up “conspiracy” charges.

Speakers at a brief rally addressed the need for continued support to revolutionary Cuba and the importance of its example for the world’s exploited and oppressed, including here in the United States.

In response to calls by opponents of the revolution for “Democracy now” and “Change now,” Casa de

las Americas, the oldest Cuba solidarity organization in New York, led lively chants of “Cuba has already changed! And forever!” and “Fifty years of revolution—On to 50 more!” Casa members turned out in force for the demonstration.

Others participating in the action against the U.S. embargo of Cuba were IFCO/Pastors for Peace, New York supporters of the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico, San Romero Church, ProLibertad, Socialist Workers Party, Party for Socialism and Liberation, International Action Center, ANSWER Coalition, Cuba Solidarity New York, and Venceremos Brigade.

## LETTERS

### Reactionary UK strikes I

In the article, “Reactionary UK strikes oppose immigrant jobs,” in the February 16 *Militant*, Communist League leader Jonathan Silberman took an important stance against the strikes and their British nationalist and anti-immigrant political character.

According to the article, the subcontractor at the union-organized worksite “decided” to hire workers from Italy and Portugal, something a company is “allowed to do . . . under European Union law.” But whether or not EU labor law “allows” this has nothing to do with what stance communists should take on the issue.

My question is, should class-struggle-minded union leaders in the United States, Great Britain, or anywhere else allow a subcontractor (or the company) to directly hire in labor from another country without union members or other workers being able to apply for the jobs? Or should the labor movement accept such a practice, and simply do

everything they can to organize the contract laborers into their union?

*Greg McCartan*  
*Oslo, Norway*

### Reactionary UK strikes II

Tony Hunt is wrong to call the recent spontaneous walkouts in oil refineries and building sites “reactionary unofficial strikes.” They were not nationalist, anti-immigrant outbursts but responses to job cuts, tearing up of local agreements, and attempts to weaken local union organization.

The slogan “British Jobs for British Workers” has appeared. Some on the strike committees have repudiated its use. They have also called for trade union assistance for the migrant workforce. These walkouts were class struggles, not reactionary nationalist outbursts. Despite the masks stuck on this dispute by the media, it is a class struggle that deserves support not condemnation.

*Murdo Ritchie*  
*Glasgow, Scotland*

### Reactionary UK strikes III

The article entitled “Reactionary UK strikes oppose immigrant jobs” was seriously flawed. First, it failed to provide necessary background information, particularly concerning recent rulings by the European Court of Justice that empower employers to ignore local union agreements on wages and conditions and prohibit trade unions from attempting to enforce them. The only oblique reference to this in your article was its statement that employers “are allowed to [hire non-UK workers] under European Union law.”

*John Smith*  
*Sheffield, England*

**The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of interest to working people. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.**

# UK strikes: blow to unity of working class

BY PETER CLIFFORD

EDINBURGH, Scotland—Are foreign-born workers rivals in the fight for jobs, or reinforcements for the working class in its struggle to overturn capitalism? That’s the issue posed by the strikes of workers at power stations in the United Kingdom in January. The article by Tony Hunt in the February 16 *Militant* that termed the strikes “reactionary” prompted several letters, which are printed below.

Hunt reported on the walkout by 600 trade unionists at the Lindsey power station after workers from

## REPLY TO A READER

Portugal and Italy were hired. His starting point was not how to save “British” jobs, but the significance for working people of the massive numbers of workers in the United Kingdom who are originally from other countries. New government figures report this as nearly 4 million, some 13 percent of the workforce, a doubling since 1997.

The employers always try to use immigrant labor to force down wages and extend working hours for all workers. The issue is, should labor forge unity to strengthen our unions or allow the rulers to keep us divided? Immigrant workers, however, have and will be in the forefront of workers’ fights. The *Militant* has reported how immigrant and native-born workers have been at the center of class battles, from cleaners in London fighting for union organization to the massive May Day mobilizations for legal rights in the United States—all actions which have strengthened the unity and combativity of the working class.

Central leaders of the union officialdom laid the basis for the power station actions by adopting a national chauvinist course in the face of mounting unemployment, appealing to the bosses to protect the jobs of skilled “British” workers. A Dec. 4, 2008, statement by the GMB union said, “you have a situation where UK customers are paying extortionate energy bills to a German energy company, who contracts a French multinational to build its new power stations, who then employs a Polish subcontractor, who, GMB members fear, will bring in workers from abroad.”

Union leaders organized a rally along these lines January 19. The keynote speaker was Unite union leader Derek Simpson. The energy that union officials put into leading this stands in marked contrast to what they haven’t done to defend workers from layoffs, let alone use union power to challenge the exploitation of immigrant workers and restrictions on their rights by organizing them into the unions. Their action plays into the hands of the bosses who seek to divert attention from the real causes of unemployment—the normal workings of the capitalist system.

It’s true, as the letters point out, that EU laws have extended the ability of employers to draw in and exploit immigrant labor, sowing greater divisions in the working class. But the nationalist response of the union officials is a dead end, as is their claim that the migration of labor is “social dumping.” All of this leads native-born workers to see immigrant workers as the problem and suggests there is a common national interest with the bosses.

The settlement of the brief strike at the Lindsey power station was a blow to workers’ unity. A deal brokered by the government, recommended by union officials, and accepted by those on strike, agreed to reserve 101 new jobs for British workers. It may be the case, as one of the letters suggests, that demands were adopted during the strike about organizing immigrant workers and equality of conditions, but the central demand of the action—“British jobs for British workers”—was never withdrawn.

The fruits of the anti-immigrant strike can be seen in the walkout at Staythorpe power station a week after the Lindsey settlement. Hundreds of pickets waved banners quoting UK prime minister Gordon Brown’s call for “British jobs for British workers” and demanding a deal similar to the one at Lindsey.